## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00641 271336Z ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 FEA-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 SS-15 /099 W

-----272212Z 067151 /70

R 262010Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8755

INFO ERDA HO WASHDC

ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PROGRAM

ALSO FOR NRC

1. S & T COUNSELOR/ERDA SCIREP MADE INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON DR. JORGE ANTONIO COLL, WHO HAS RETURNED FROM IRAN AND IS CURRENTLY SECRETARY GENERAL AND CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR CNEA. WE HELD GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON ON NUCLEAR MATTERS WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN MEMCOM TO FOLLOW. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE FOLLOWING:

(A) REPORCESSING. CNEA PLANS TO GRADUALLY COMPLETE PILOT PLANT AND INTENDS TO USE THIS TO REPROCESS RA-3 FUEL. CNEA IS AWARE OF U.S. RIGHTS OF REVIEW OF THIS PLANT UNDER ARTICLE XII OF U.S. ARGENTINE BILATERAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT OF JUNE 25, 1969. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00641 271336Z

THERE ARE DEFINITELY NO RPT NO FIRM PLANS TO MOVE TO POWER REACTOR FUEL REPROCESSING, WHICH IS A SUBJECT FOR THE DISTANT FUTURE.

(B) NEW RESEARCH REACTOR. THE NEW RESEARCH REACTOR (60 MW ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT) IS IN THE EARLY PLANNING STAGES. IT IS TO BE DESIGNED FOR ISOTOPE PRODUCTION AND MATERIALS TESTING

PURPOSES PRIMARILY, AND AT THIS STAGE THERE IS A (NATURAL) INTERNAL CONFLICT AMONG THESE TWO GROUPS AND THE REACTOR DESIGNERS AS TO THE NATURE OF THE DESIGN AND HOW IT SHOULD BE OPTIMIZED. CONTRARY TO THE PRESS REPORT, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR THAT THE DESIGN WILL BE A NATURAL URANIUM-HEAVY WATER REACTOR. IN FACT IT MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE AN ENRICHED URANIUM REACTOR AND COULD PERHAPS BE SIMILAR TO THE BR-2 AT MOL.

2. EXTENSIVE REPORT ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ALSO IN PREPARATION AND WILL FOLLOW BY POUCH. HILL

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR FUELS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS00641
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** 

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** 

Film Number: D770030-0456

Format: TEL

From: BUENOS AIRES Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770118/aaaaapeg.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 593508d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION OES

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3500321 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PROGRAM ALSO FOR NRC

TAGS: TECH, PARM, AR

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/593508d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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